

REMARKS

As noted in the introductory remarks, Applicant has been required the restriction requirement set forth in the February 10, 2009 Office Action to elect claims from one of three different groups identified in the Office Action according to a listing of claims associated with each group. Specifically, the three groups are identified in the Office Action as follows:

- I. Claims 1-17, drawn to a system for processing requests for purchase of creative works comprising a user interface routine, process handling routine, accounting routine, administrative interface routine and benefit redemption routine, classified in class 705, subclass 36.
- II. Claims 18-34, drawn to a method of providing presentation information to a user seeking financial sponsorship and notifying patrons concerning attainment of benefit and the availability of substitution to a different work, classified in class 705, subclass 36.
- III. Claims 35-42, 44, drawn to a system for receiving visual/audio information about creative work and conveying this information to potential patrons comprising administrative transaction handler, patron transaction handler, storage medium, accounting engine, administrative interface and a benefit redemption processing engine, classified in class 705, subclass 36.

This restriction requirement is respectfully traversed. Applicant does not necessarily agree that the three groups are independent or distinct. In addition, the three independent claims – 1, 18 and 35 – have many overlapping concepts or features. Applicant respectfully submits that it would not be overly burdensome to examine (or continue examining) all of the pending claims in a single application. See M.P.E.P. 803.01. In fact, significant economies would be achieved by examining all three groups together, given the substantial overlap.

Nonetheless, if the Examiner persists in the restriction requirement, Applicant hereby provisionally elects to proceed with the Group I claims – that is, claims 1-17


generally relating to a system for processing requests for purchase of creative works comprising a user interface routine, process handling routine, accounting routine, administrative interface routine and benefit redemption routine. Applicant has accordingly provisionally withdrawn claims 18-34, 35-42, and 44 herein, without prejudice to pursue by divisional application or otherwise.

Request for Allowance

It is believed that the instant application is in condition for further examination, and early allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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